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Employment Opportunities for Vocational School Graduates on the Rise

- 2023 "Employment Statistics Survey of Vocational High School Graduates" reveals encouraging trends
- Increased employment rate in companies with 300 or more employees (+3.5%) and enhanced retention rate after 6 months (+3.9%)
- Slight decrease in graduates' overall employment rate (-2.1% p)

The Ministry of Education (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education Lee Ju-Ho), in collaboration with the Korea Educational Development Institute (KEDI), announced the findings of the 2023 Vocational High School Graduate Employment Statistics Survey.

The survey encompassed 71,591 graduates from 578 vocational high schools across the nation who completed their studies in February 2023. It provided comprehensive insights into their employment status, higher education pursuits, and other essential details as of April 1, 2023. The data for the survey was meticulously collected through a meticulous evaluation of public databases, including the National Health Insurance Service, the Labor and Welfare Service, the Korean Council for University Education, and the Military Manpower Administration.

2023 Vocational High School Graduate Employment Statistics Survey

□ (Employment Rate and Enrollment Rate)

Overall Employment Rate: 55.7% (a decrease of 2.1 percentage points from the previous year)

Employment Rate by Gender: 54.6% for males and 57.3% for females

Employment Rate by School Type: Meister high school 73.7%, specialized high school 53.3%, general high school vocational class 36.8%

Employment Rate by Location: Gyeongbuk (66.7%), Daegu (62.7%), Daejeon (59.1%), Sejong (58.9%), Chungnam (58.8%), Ulsan (57.8%), Jeju (57.4%), Gyeongnam (57.3%), and Busan (55.8%)

Employment Rate by Workplace Employee Size: Less than 30 employees 31.8%, 30~300 employees 34.7%, 300+ employees 33.4

Overall Graduation Rate: 47.0% (an increase of 1.8 percentage points from the previous year)

□ (Retention Rate)

For 2022 graduates, the 6-month retention rate (as of October 1, 2022) stood at 82.2%, a remarkable increase of 3.9 percentage points from the prior year.

The 12-month retention rate (as of April 1, 2023) for 2022 graduates was 66.4%, showcasing a noteworthy growth of 2.1 percentage points from the previous year.

① Employment and College Placement Rates for Vocational High School Graduates in 2023

In February 2023, 19,526 vocational graduates found employment, resulting in an employment rate of 55.7%. This represents a 2.1%p decline from the previous year's rate of 57.8% (as of April 1, 2022). Additionally, 33,621 graduates pursued higher education, leading to an enrollment rate of 47.0%, showing a 1.8%p increase from the previous year's rate of 45.2% (as of April 1, 2022).

In the same period, the percentage of graduates employed by companies with fewer than 30 employees decreased by 1.9%p, falling from 33.7% in 2022 to 31.8% in 2023. This shift indicates a notable rise in high-quality company employment opportunities for vocational school graduates.

< Post-graduation Status of 2022 vs. 2023 Vocational High School Graduates >

(Unit: No. of people, %)

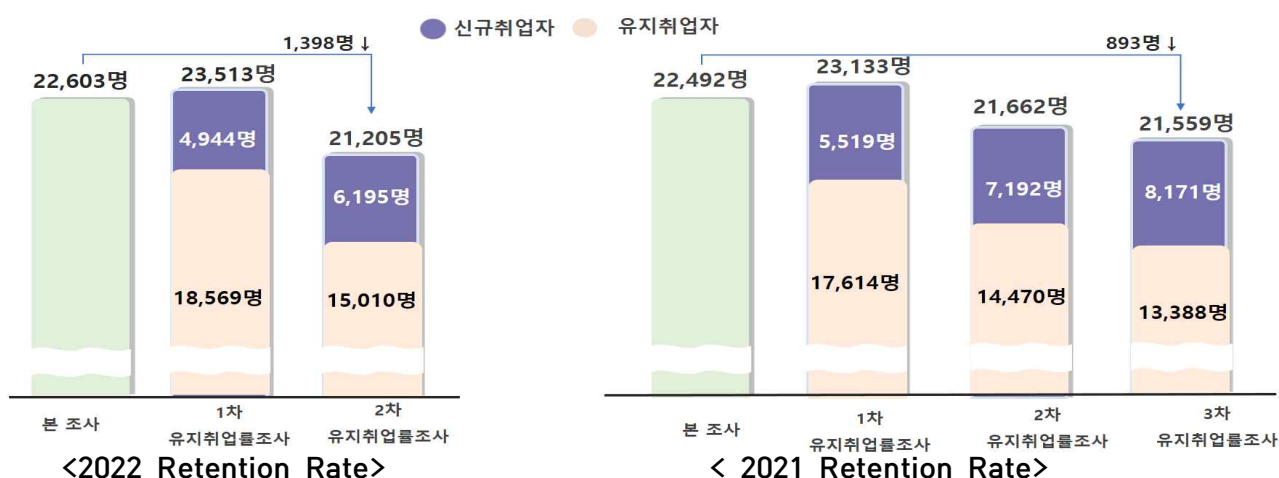
		Employment rate	Enrollment rate	Percentage of employed out of graduates	Specifics					
					Graduates	Employed	No. of students	Military service	Exempted students	Unemployed
Employment statistics for vocational school graduates (public DB)	2022	57.8	45.2	29.6	76,760	22,709	34,686	1,873	942	16,550
	2023	55.7	47.0	27.3	71,591	19,526	33,621	1,940	971	15,533
	Year-on-year	2.1%p ↓	1.8%p ↑	2.3%p ↓	△5,169	△3,183	△1,065	67	29	△1,017

② Retention Rate of Vocational School Graduates

In 2022, the 6-month retention rate of vocational school graduates (as of Oct. 1, 2022) increased by 3.9%p compared to the previous year, reaching 82.2% (from 78.3% on Oct. 1, 2021). The 12-month retention rate, measured as of April 1, 2023, also experienced a 2.1%p rise from the previous year, reaching 66.4% (compared to 64.3% on April 1, 2022). These improvements in retention rates signify enhanced employment stability.

Meanwhile, the rates of first, second, and third job retention show a tendency to decrease, and the overall number of insured individuals has remained relatively stable, primarily due to a continuous influx of newly insured individuals. This observation suggests that a considerable portion of vocational high school graduates are sustaining their economic activities through ongoing employment

opportunities.



3 Future Timeline and Plans

The Ministry of Education intends to incorporate the insights gleaned from the Employment Statistics Survey into its employment support policies. Furthermore, the survey findings, encompassing the status of vocational high school graduates categorized by subject (country), standard education classification, and industry type, will be made available on the Ministry of Education's website in November, making this valuable information readily accessible to all interested parties.

【Employment Support Policy in Secondary Vocational Education Development Plan】

- Implementation of regionally-based contractual vocational schools with the goal of nurturing 35 such schools
- Increase the number of school-enterprise partnerships and diversify industry-academia collaboration initiatives
- Create local talent recruitment opportunities for military personnel and encourage high school graduates to join the public sector workforce
- Provide incentives to companies that hire high school graduates and offer support for their retention as full-time employees
- Offer assistance for employment preparations, including a bridge year program, for students who are undecided about their career paths, among other initiatives.

Jang Sang-yoon commented, "We will remain committed to our "Secondary Vocational Education Development Plan," which aims to provide practical vocational education to vocational high school students and connect them with reputable companies. We will work closely with government agencies, local authorities, and relevant organizations to further elevate the employment prospects of vocational high school graduates."

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